



Correspondence  
related to  
Provisional patent

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
60/447,607	02/14/2003		80	DLG-1-P	2		

31671  
STEVEN C. SCHNEDLER  
CARTER & SCHNEDLER, PA  
56 CENTRAL AVE., SUITE 101  
PO BOX 2985  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

CONFIRMATION NO. 9673

**FILING RECEIPT**



\*OC00000009696023\*

Date Mailed: 03/25/2003

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional Patent Application. It will not be examined for patentability and will become abandoned not later than twelve months after its filing date. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Filing Receipt Corrections, facsimile number 703-746-9195. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

**Applicant(s)**

David L. Gilliam, Asheville, NC;

RECEIVED MAR 3 1 2003

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 03/25/2003

Projected Publication Date: None, application is not eligible for pre-grant publication

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**\*\* SMALL ENTITY \*\***

**Title**

Decorative suspender

**LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER  
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184  
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

**GRANTED**

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Office of Export Administration, Department of Commerce (15 CFR 370.10 (j)); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

#### **NOT GRANTED**

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).

CARTER SCHNEDLER & MONTEITH, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
56 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 101 (28801)  
P.O. BOX 2985  
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28802

DAVID M. CARTER  
STEVEN C. SCHNEDLER  
J. DEREL MONTEITH, JR.

(828) 252-6225

PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS  
FAX (828) 252-6316  
e-mail: Schnedler@AshevillePatent.com

March 31, 2003

David L. Gilliam  
2421 Riceville Road  
Asheville, NC 28805

Re: U.S. Provisional Patent Application  
Ser. No. 60/477,607, Filed February 14, 2003  
"Decorative Suspender"  
Our File No. DLG-1-P

Dear David:

Enclosed is a copy of an official Filing Receipt advising us that application Serial No. 60/477,607 has been assigned to the above-captioned provisional patent application, and confirming the filing date February 14, 2003.

The provisional patent application confers "patent pending" status. However, **it will not be examined and will automatically become abandoned one year from the filing date.**

Accordingly, if patent protection on the subject matter is to be pursued with the benefit of the provisional patent application filing date, a "regular" patent application must be filed within one year, making the due date for a possible "regular" patent application filing **February 14, 2004**. There is no limitation on the subject matter which can be added in the "regular" patent application, but the provisional patent application filing date will apply only with reference to the subject matter which is common to the provisional patent application and the "regular" patent application.

In addition, **that is also the foreign filing deadline** in the event any foreign patent applications are to be pursued. When a provisional patent application has been filed, the one year foreign filing deadline is calculated based on the earliest provisional application filing date, rather than on the later "regular" patent application filing date.

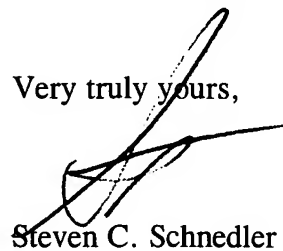
The foreign filing procedure can, however, be initiated earlier in the event you are interested in earlier issuance of patents in any particular foreign countries, and in any event it is best to begin about two months in advance. We can discuss the subject of foreign filings whenever you are ready. In the meantime, also enclosed with this letter is a copy of the current "Designation of States" sheet from the PCT Application Request Form. **If you are interested in any foreign countries that are not on that list, it is important that we proceed early with direct national filings in those countries.**

David L. Gilliam  
March 31, 2003  
Page 2

It is best not to wait until the last minute. I would suggest proceeding with a "regular" patent application whenever your product development efforts have reached an appropriate stage. Among other reasons, there will be no progress towards examination and issuance of a patent until a "regular" patent application is actually filed. Patent applications are placed in the queue for examination in order based on the filing date of the "regular" patent application.

Finally, we have not yet ordered a patentability search directed to this invention. Please let me know whether we should proceed with a patentability search at this time.

Very truly yours,



Steven C. Schnedler

SCS/cz  
Enclosures

CARTER & SCHNEDLER, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
56 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 101 (28801)  
P.O. BOX 2985  
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28802

DAVID M. CARTER  
STEVEN C. SCHNEDLER  
J. DEREL MONTEITH, JR.

(828) 252-6225

PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS  
FAX (828) 252-6316  
e-mail: Schnedler@AshevillePatent.com

February 17, 2003

David L. Gilliam  
2421 Riceville Road  
Asheville, NC 28805

Re: New U.S. Provisional Patent Application  
Filed February 14, 2003  
"Decorative Suspender"  
Our File No. DLG-1-P

Dear David:

Enclosed for your files and information is an "as filed" copy of your provisional patent application, which was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 14, 2003, using the Express Mail procedure provided by the rules such that the date of mailing is considered the date of filing.

In due course, we will receive an official filing receipt, and I will report the assigned serial number to you at that time.

The provisional patent application confers "patent pending" status. However, it will not be examined, and will automatically become abandoned one year from the filing date.

Accordingly, if patent protection on the subject matter is to be pursued with the benefit of the provisional patent application filing date, a "regular" patent application must be filed within one year, making the due date for a possible "regular" patent application filing February 14, 2004. There is no limitation on the subject matter which can be added in the "regular" patent application, but the provisional patent application filing date will apply only with reference to the subject matter which is common to the provisional patent application and the "regular" patent application.

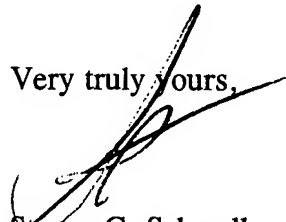
In addition, February 14, 2004 is the foreign filing deadline in the event any foreign patent applications are to be pursued. When a provisional patent application has been filed, the one-year foreign filing deadline is calculated based on the earliest provisional application filing date, rather than the later "regular" patent application filing date.

However, it is best not to wait until the last minute. I would suggest proceeding with a "regular" patent application whenever you are ready.

David L. Gilliam  
February 17, 2003  
Page 2

Finally, enclosed for your information is a printout of "Provisional Application for Patent - What It Is and How To Use It," from the Patent Office internet web site.

Very truly yours,



Steven C. Schnedler

SCS/cz  
Enclosures

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET**

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label N .

EU145530916US

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle (if any))	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
David L.	Gilliam	Asheville, NC			
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
DECORATIVE SUSPENDER					
Direct all correspondence to: <b>CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS</b> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;">31671</span> <span style="margin: 0 10px;">→</span> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Place Customer Number              Barcode Label Here  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>OR</span> <span>Type Customer Number here</span> </div>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		<div style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">31671</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; font-weight: bold;">PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE</div>			
Address					
Address					
City		State		ZIP	
Country		Telephone		Fax	
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;">2</span>		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"></span>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;">2</span>		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"></span>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.		FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold;">\$80.00</div>			
<input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 20px;"></span>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Steven C. SchnedlerTELEPHONE (828) 252-6225Date 02/14/2003REGISTRATION NO.  
(if appropriate)  
Docket Number:27,591DLG-1-P**USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

## DECORATIVE SUSPENDER

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 depicts a suspender embodying the invention in isolation; and

FIG. 2 depicts the suspender of FIG. 1 in use.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 depicts a suspender 10 embodying the invention. The suspender 10 has a "Y" configuration, with two upper straps 12 and 14, and a lower strap 16. The straps 12, 14 and 16 are made of flexible elastic material, and are adjustable in length as described hereinbelow. A variety of straps 12, 14 and 16 of different colors and lengths may be provided. An ornamental element 20 is attached at or near the center of the suspender 10.

Although the ornamental element 20 is depicted in the form of a butterfly, such is one example only. Thus, the ornamental element 20 can be replaced by other ornamental elements, of different designs and colors.

Although the illustrated suspender 10 has a "Y" configuration, other configurations are possible, such as a pair of crossed straps in an "X" configuration, or a single vertical strap in an "I" configuration. The straps 12, 14 and 16 may be separate pieces sewn together, or a single piece. The straps 12, 14 and 16, as well as the ornamental element 20, may be secured at the center by snaps, clips or other removable devices (not shown) hidden behind the ornamental element 20 in FIG. 1. Conventional double-slotted strap slides may be employed as removable attachments.

At the distal ends of the straps 12, 14 and 16 are suitable fasteners 22, 24 and 26, such as suspender clips, or buttonholes,



for attachment to upper and lower garments 28 and 30 as illustrated in FIG. 2.

The ends of the straps 12, 14 and 16 are looped through slots in the illustrated suspender clips 22, 24 and 26, and are adjustably secured by being passed through the two slots of respective double-slotted strap slides 32, 34 and 36, in a conventional manner.

A set of straps 12, 14 and 16 of different colors and lengths, and a set of ornamental elements 20 of different designs and colors, can be provided as a kit, to be assembled in various color and decorative design configurations as desired by the wearer.

It will be appreciated that the positioning of the suspender 10 in the in-use configuration of FIG. 2 is one example only. The suspender 20 can be positioned by the user wherever desired.

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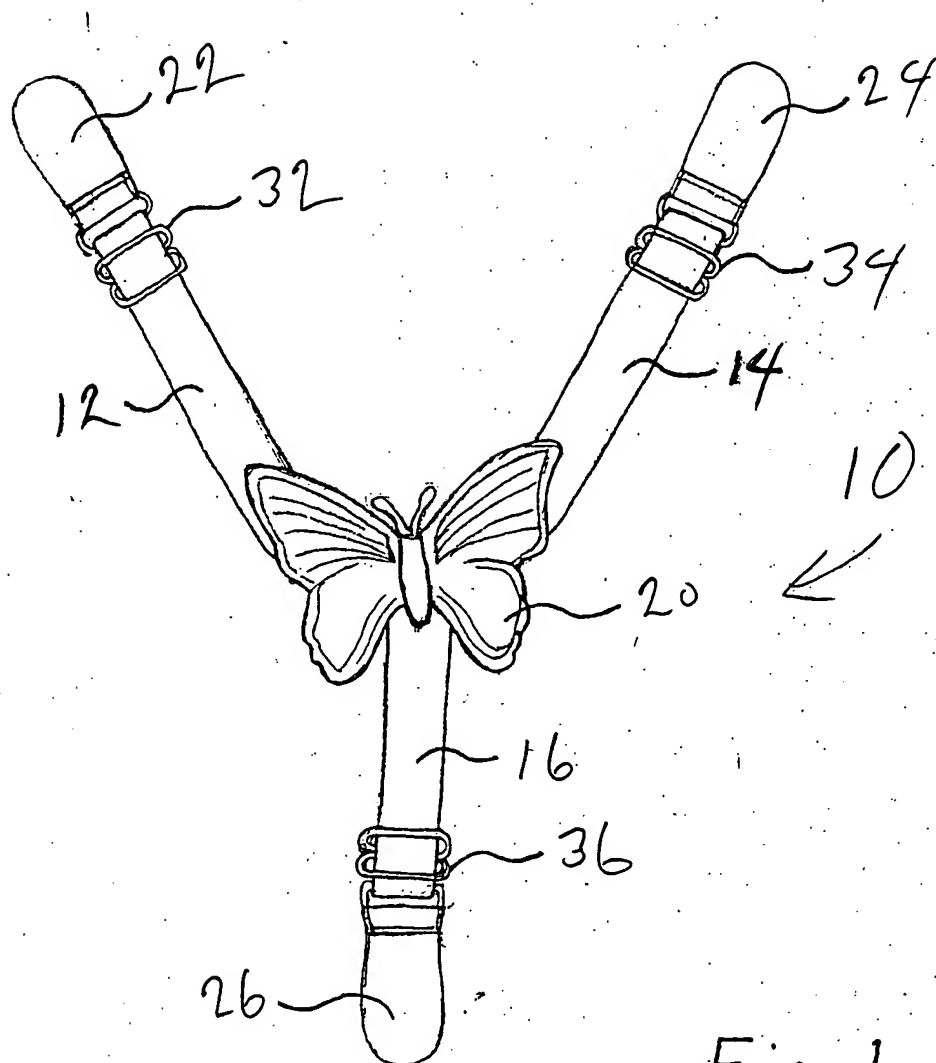


Fig. 1

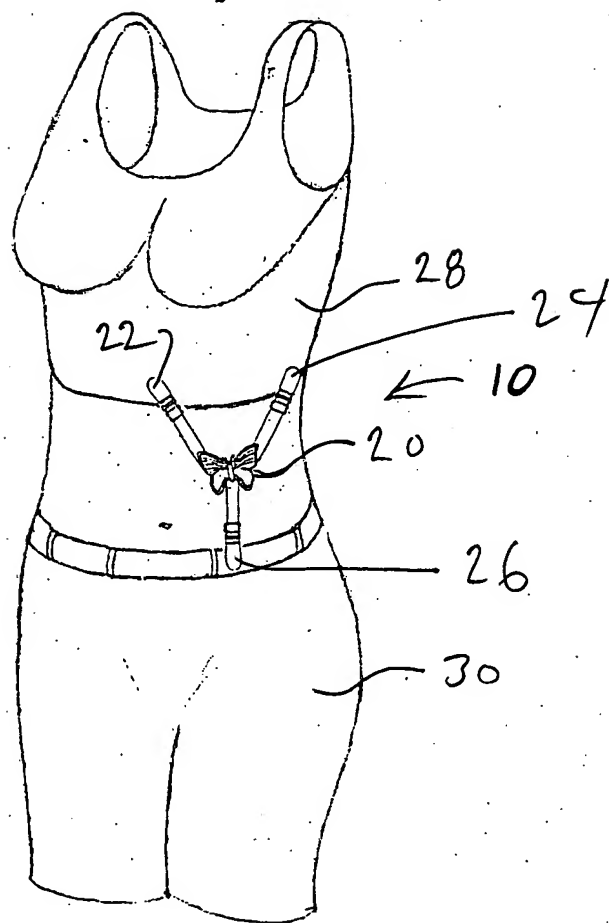


Fig. 2